



A SEASONABLE

106

PROPOSITION

OF

Propagating the Gospel by Christian Colonies in the Continent of Guiana : being some gleanings of a larger Discourse drawn, but not published.



By *John Oxenbridge*, a silly worme, too inconsiderable for so great a Work, and therefore needs and desires acceptance and assistance from Above.

THIS Proposition in the first place seeks fit persons to consider it. The generall fitnessse is to be reall believers and practicers of the Christian Religion they proteste, *1 Cor. 4. 13. Matth. 5. 16. 1 Pet. 2. 11, 12. 3, 1, 2.* It is so to prize and love Christ his name and interest (in saving of souls) as that they as being brethren, may and can goe forth to the Gentiles for his names sake, *3 John 5, 6, 7.* Those in whom Christ will be mighty in word and deed, and going about (not sitting still) doing good, *Luke 24. Acts 10. 38.* Such as (whatsoever their condition or sex be) may be helpers of Gospel-work among the Heathen, *Psalme 145. 10, 11, 12. Rom. 16. 4, 12. Phil. 4. 3.* These will be the soul and life (through Christ in them) of the businesse propounded; yet the soul may need and use corporeal Organs in it's Work: So men that are under some generous and Christian instinct to such a Worke, or have some usefull ingenuity and gift may over-hear this Proposition, and be desirable in it, provided that they be so fairly inclined to the former as not to envy and hinder them, and so farre seasoned by them as not to propagate among the heathen that scandall of Christian Religion which hath been given in some

parts of that New world which I would call *Columba*, rather than *America*. Seed-corn should not be the refuse, but choicest of corn.

The particular fitnessse of such Christian and ingenious persons for this propofall I would expresse in eight ranks.

1. Where there is present or pressing poverty at home, by losse of late purchases or employments, or by decay of Trade or other common calamities of the time. Also those that for feare of want are put to unsatisfying or uncomfortable employments and shifts, such may well thinke how and whether to take the wing before the remnant of their feathers moulter, *Gen. 45. 11. Ruth 1. 1.* When with all thy toyle here thou canst not provide for those that depend on thee, thou mayest be worse then the heathen in not going to them, *1 Tim. 5. 8.* When in stead of giving to them that need (which is the measure and bound of work, *Ephes. 4. 28.*) thou wilt need them that give. It should be a burthen to thy selfe to be so to others, especially when daily the number of receivers increaseth, and of givers decreaseth. And if thou be of too base a metall to ease thy selfe and others in a way that God offereth, and so wilt not be weary of receiving, they may be of giving, and so thy case will be as *Prov. 13. 4, 6, 11.* And in this first rank I may place any honest persons fallen under some grievous accident or Creditors, for such might might well go forth by absence and activity to wear away their grief and distresse, *1 Sam. 12. 1, 2.*

2. Such reall Preachers as are taken off their work. Though our former service be not in our hands, yet sure our Master and work is in our hearts, and we love them too well to turn aside to other businesse or to none, withering in corners, and may be, burthening a poor people, when we cannot serve them, which was not the manner of those holy men (whom we professe to succeed) *2 Chron. 11. 14. Rom. 15. 23. Acts 22. 8, 21.* And if any of us be so faine and sluggish a spirit, we are shamed and condemned by Dominicans and Jesuites who out-do this. (as their Predecessors did) in a worse work, and for a worse Master, *Math. 23. 15.* and these we should out-do, *Math. 5. 20.* But more of this in the first Reason.

3. Some good people may think of this propositon, 1. To enjoy, accompany, and assist such Ministers, and with them to avoid such worship as they have not faith for, *Rom 14. 23. 1 Chron. 11. 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.* 2. And so to be a Candlestick to such Lights, *1 Cor. 12. 14, 21, 22.* For true and pure Churches did take notice and care of such work, *3 John 6. 3.* And to enjoy abroad what they fear they cannot here, *Exod. 8. 25, 26. Psal. 137. 4.* 4. And to provide for children or other relations, who too weak to withstand the temptations of such times as they apprehend, *John 18. 8. Deut. 32. 11. Psal. 84. 2.* 5. Such among the heathen may be used as soon and much as Ministers, *Acts 8. 4, 5. 1, 11. 20. Rom. 16. 4, 12. Phil. 4. 3.*

4. Such as by reason of former differences and actions or present streights of Conscience are under daily jealousy (though very quiet and innocent)

innocent) and danger, having their lives, liberties, estates, and spiritual enjoyments hanging in continuall doubt, and obnoxious to the information or violence of their particular adversaries, who may be absurd, unreasonable, needy, greedy, or implacable. Nay if men be in continuall feare, if not danger of new snares and mischiefs in some or all of these respects. Consider if the propounded departure and work may not ease yourselves and others, *Deut.* 28. 66. *Psal.* 27. 11, 12. 31. 3, 4, 8. 55. 3. unto the 12. Also ponder as in the presence of God, whether that which ye are like to do here in staying be not more doubtfull and questionable in your conscience then your going; and whether upon your carnal eyes or confidence rather then spirituall, you are fixed here: And so not as *Paul*, after a large compasse of service (for which he had fled many a time) bound in spirit to abide by it? *Acts* 20. 22. And whether you may not give a worse testimony (as *Peter*) by abiding then flight.

5. Those that are (notwithstanding the securly of others) under apprehensions of the causes or effects of National wrath, may think of withdrawing, *Prov.* 27. 12. *Mic.* 2. 1, 2, 3. 6, 8, 9, 10, *Matth.* 24. 15, 16. *Luke* 21. 20. — *Isa.* 26. 10, 11. *2 Sam.* 24. 1. *Gen.* 20. 19. Now ye are to give the more earnest heed to the winks of these urgent providences, and necessities, because their errand may be to drive you to that duty which you would not be drawn to, as *Jacob* out of *Mesopotamia*, *Gen.* 31. 1, 2. his posterity out of *Aegypt*, *Exod.* 1. 14. who were thrust out, *Ex.* 11. 1. The same word being used as in *Matth.* 9. last. Therefore may the necessities alight much upon some gallant active men that may be in one respect or other of great use in the work propounded: And if the condition of the Nation prove better, good men will be under more engagement and liberty for this service which is begun only upon necessity.

6. Such as are in a cold and phlegmatick temper or dislemper of body, by age, palsey, consumption, rhumes, coughs, and the like, and so or otherwise find it hard to withstand the rough assaults of a hoary, horrid winter. These may come nearer to the cherishing wings of the Sun, that their spirits may have a more lightsome house to work in for their Lord; for this they may pray, and so endeavour, and that above all earthly things, *3 John* 1. much more when they can (as in the former cases) make a virtue of their necessity.

7. Some good people that have a gift or art that may be spared at home (and thank them too) but of great necessity and improvement in the work propounded. Such usefull men have on occasion of transplanting, yielded themselves to the desire and need of their brethren, though they have not been so forward of themselves, *Ex.* 28. 15, 16, 17, 18. *2 Kings* 6. 1, 2, 3. So that here will be an invitation to severall to consider of our propoall, as some prudent and experienced men not in use where they dwell, so some Ministers, Physicians, Merchants, Schoolmasters, Mathematicians, Navigators, Midwives, who are but cyphers, or at the most but in single capacity here, yet may be abroad in the place of tens,

hundreds, thousands, that is, may be of publique use, and not onely serving their own necessities. Here may be added some honest Artists, as Mariners, Ship wrights, and other Carpenters, Masons, Smiths of all sorts, Coupers, Turners, Fletchers, Confectioners, Taylors, Weavers of all sorts, Tanners, Carriers, Shoo-makers, Potters, Founders, such as burn Soap-ashes, Soap-boylers, Salt-peter-men, Hemp-dressers, Rope-makers, Pin-makers, Needle-makers, Cutlers, Nail-men, Gardiners, Husban-men, Comb-makers, Joyners, Printers, Pewterers, Braziers, Book-binders.

Now all these are in their proper skill and discretion owned and taught by the Lord, *Isa.* 18. 26. and therefore the exercise of their gift should not be principally to serve their own belly or subsistence, but the Lord, *Rom.* 16. 18. *Phil.* 3. 19. And he expects they should think how to be most serviceable to him and their generation, *Acts* 13. 36. *1 Cor.* 12. 7. Whereas some of these are not only miserable drudges to others, (their work affording wealth to the vender, but scarce bread to the maker) but also are hinderances to (those of the same mysteric) in their own generation if they stay at home, whereas they might be some of each gift an advantage to Gods work and people abroad, and so an ease to them at home.

8. Those Ministers, Merchants, or other Gentlemen who have opportunity and power to help their honest poor friends and others whose hearts and cases put them upon this work in person; it is a point of faithfulness to further and encourage others who go forth to the Gentiles *3 John* 5, 6, 7, 8. thus even staying at home you will be fellow-helpers to the truth, Though ye will use your liberty and stay at home, yet ye must in love serve your brethren, *Gal.* 5. 13. Thus with one good life you may ease your poor friends of continuall need, and your selves of continuall charge, and give them not a cup but a spring of water. Yea, this may not onely return to a good account in the next world (which may be neerer to you than ye think) but even in this; for ye know not what ye may need, & how soon, in a tumbling and rolling world; wherefore adventure something, and let not doubtfull events hinder you, *Eccles.* 11. 1, 2, 3, 4.

To Christians of any of these ranks, I propound the propagating of the Gospel by Christian Colonies in the Continent of *Guaiana* for these four Reasons.

The first and principall reason is from the nature of this work in general, and the aptnesse of this proposall for it, both I shall desire to set forth in these 6 branches.

1. Christians in going abroad must eye their use and service. 2. There is service to be done abroad in propagating the Gospel because of the promises. 3. The time of fulfilling these promises is such as may lead to this work. 4. These promises are grounds of our endeavour. 5. Our endeavour it seems should look toward *Columba*. 6. The Country propounded (that is *Guaiana*) is apt for this endeavour.

1 *Branch*. Disciples of Christ in going (and so sending) abroad , must minde where they may be most serviceable to him, 1 *Cor.* 5. 15. and must by his counsell and for his interest *serve their owne generation*, *Acts* 13. 36. So that their enquiry must not be meerly for their own particular safety or accommodation , not barely where they may cate, drink and sleep, for this is but the brut's life , and is to sleep and slugge out a life , and not to live a life. No, no, Christians (if really so) are of too high a birth, and nuture for such a silly life (if I may call it life) and therefore when they goe from one place or Country, they must eye their use in choise of another, *Matth.* 10. 23. not go to some wildernesse or by-village where they may skulke, but to another place most likely for worke, though not promising so much ease and safety. So *David* when abroad, minds the Lords work in his generation, 1 *Sam.* 23. 1 *Sam.* 27. 8. So Christ himself knowing the designs of the enemy, *Matth.* 12. 14, 15. So his Disciples, *Acts* 8. 1. with 11. 19, 20. So *Paul* and *Barnabas*, *Acts* 13. 50, 51, 54. 1, 5, 6, 7. And this goodnesse or usefulness of a Christian in the fruit of the spirit, *Gal.* 5. 22. *Eph.* 5. 9. and their duty, *Colos.* 3. 12. *Ephes.* 4. ult. And thus they season and preserve the rest of mankind, *Mat.* 5. 13.

2 *Branch*. There is use and service for Christians abroad in propagating the Gospel and blessings of Christ, because there are several promises thereof, of whose fruit some Nations have never tasted. Some of these promises are *Gen.* 12. 3. with *Gal.* 3. 8. *Gen.* 22. 18. *Pf.* 2. 8. 8. 1. last 18. 43, 49. which is of Christ typed by *David* as *Paul* expounds, *Rom.* 15. 8, 9. So *Psalms* 22. 27, 28, 30, 31. 33. 8. to the 13. 46. 10. 48. 10. 50. 1. 4. 66. 4. 67. 2, 4. 68. 18, 32. 72. 7, 11, 17. 86. 9. 98. 2, 3, 4. 138. 4, 5. *Isa.* 2. 3, 4. 11. 9, 10, 11, 12. 40. 5. 49. 1. 6, 7. 52. 10, 15. 56. 6, 7, 8. 59. 19. 62. 1, 10, 11. *Jer.* 4. 2. 16. 18, 19. *Dan.* 7. 14. *Joel* 3. 28. *Amos* 9. 12. *Mic.* 3. 3, 4. *Zeph.* 2. 10. 3. 8, 9. *Haggi.* 2. 7. *Zech.* 9. 10. 14. 9. *Mal.* 1. 11. *Mat.* 13. 29. 24. 14.

3 *Branch*. The time of fulfilling these promises is such as may lead to this work propounded. For the incarnation and death of Christ made way for them, *Luke* 2. 30, 31, 32. *John* 10. 15, 16. 12. 20, 24, 31. And they were not wholly fulfilled in the Apostles dayes : For our own Nation (that is the Saxons here) and many others were not sprinkled with the Gospel till some centuries after the Apostles. Nay, some Nations after Antiehrists usurping the throne continued under heathen Idolatry, and are now under Christian profession. And though the Nations may have some further advance in their number and measure of acknowledging God in Christ after the conversion of *Jewes*, and the rest of *Israel*, *Isa.* 4. 1. *Rev.* 21. 24. Yet it seems that the acknowledgement of God in Christ by all nations in some degree will forego, help, and carry on the conversion of the *Jewes* and their brethren, *Rom.* 11. 25, 26, 31. *Luke* 21. 24. 13. 19, 30. *Isa.* 49. 18. 21, 22, 23. Likewise the sprinkling of all nations with the Gospel seems to be furthered by the separation from, and followed by the destruction of *Babylon*, *Rev.* 14. 7, 2—6, 7, 8. 15, 4.

psalm 2.8,9.82. ult: *Isa.* 66. 23, 24. 14, 15, 18. and to be the way or concomitant of the deliverance of Gods people, *Psal.* 102. 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22. 66. 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12. And they that remain at home being shut up by the Lord, may be the nearer their deliverance when they are few and contemptible, after a great forsaking in the midst of the Land; and experience saith something to this as well as Scripture, *Judg.* 7. 2. *Zach.* 3. 12, 13. And what these Christian Colonies propounded, may signify for the conversion of *Israel* (be the whole or some inward parts of *Columba* of that descent, or be they hid in the unknown parts of *Columba*) or what for Antichrists fall, or the true Churches redemption, I will not say; but surely the removing to no part of *Europe*, nor yet to the North of *Columba* is so likely to promote any of these glorious matters, neither can the retreating to any part of *Europe* tend to this work of the Gospel, or any thing equivalent.

4 *Branch.* The promises for propagating the Gospel, and blessings of Christ to all nations are a ground for our endeavours this way, *Rom.* 15. 19, 20, 21. *Acts* 13. 46, 47. And Christs commands of this endeavour are yet in force, extending in the promise and purport of them far beyond that present age of the Apostles, *Matth* 28. 19, 20. *Mkr.* 16. 15. And as Gods promises and commands, so our own prayers (if sincere) will call in our endeavours to this work, *Matth.* 9. ult. with 10. 1. We cannot expect the nations should be brought in by Angels from heaven, but by the servants of Christ on earth, exciting and provoking these nations, *1. Pet.* 100. 1. 96. 3, 7, 8, 9. 22. 27, 30, 31. *Mic.* 4. 2. *Zech.* 8. 20, 21. And how shall we be in a condition of doing this, but by a Christian Colony, so going out to the heathen for Christs names sake, 3 *John* 5, 6, 7. *Psalms* 22. 27, 30, 31. 72. 16, 17. Wherefore the planting in *Europe*, or in any Islands of *Columba* destitute of, and remote from the Indians (as *Barbados*, *Antigua*, *Jamaica*) hath no immediate tendency to this service. Yet if in all our West-Indian Plantations, and in *Virginia*, some faithfull real Preachers protected and strengthened by sober Magistrates, did heartily give themselves up to the work of the Lord, they might finde a better harvest then at home where they are refused, *Matt* 21. 28. 9, 30, 31, 32. and prepare this people to great service in that part of the world.

5 *Branch.* If we will do any thing in this work, we must (as the Sun and Glopel do, *Psal.* 72. 17.) move forward toward the West, and not back to the East (and so not to *Europe* or *Asia*) *Mat.* 24. 27. 8. 11, 12. *Mal.* 1. 11. *Psal.* 50. 1. 65. 8. If Christians in going abroad mean to follow their Lord and do good (even this great good) to men in extending the knowledge and Kingdome of Christ, they must look to that part of man-kind, which never yet heard the sound of Christ in the Gospel, for such are more under the promises, *Rom.* 15. 19, 20, 21. *Isa.* 55. 5. 66. 19. And among such in their first times (which have been the warmest and sweetest in a spirituall account) will be a quicker trade and negotiation for the Gospel then among those people in *Europe* or *Asia*, who have sinned themselves

into judicall hardnesse, and forfeited the presence and power of the Gospel which they now count but an old and weary song, *Isa. 6. 9, 10, 11, 12. Ezek. 3. 6. Isa. 52 ult. Psalm 18. 49, 44. with Rom. 15. 9. Mal. 1. 10, 11. Matth. 21. 41, 43. 22. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Luke 14. 18, 19, 21, 23. Acts 13. 26. 45. to 50. 18. 5, 6, 28, 24. to 29. Rom. 10. 20, 21. 11. 11. Revel. 2. 4, 5. Hof. 9. 10.*

6 Branch. *Guaiana* the place propounded is probable for this service, not only beyond the Islands (which upon this account cannot come into competition) but also (as it seems) beyond other parts of the Continent of *Columbia*, for you will have here 3 advantages.

1. This will be an honour worthy of the ambition of noble Christians, to be the first that shall bring the name of Christ in the Gospel among this people, *Rom. 15. 19, 20, 21.* In the Northern Continent there hath been and is some found, but in the Southern no certain sound in it's civill parts, but none at all in this.

2. There is a faire and good entrance upon this Countrey, which betters the Title. *God hath prepared room*, *Psal. 80. 9.* and that first in the Land, it being not taken up by the *Spanyard* or any other of Christian profession, nor yet filled by the Natives, so that ye are in no danger of doing reall wrong to any, *Gen. 9. 1. 34, 21. Isa. 45. 18. Acts 17. 26.* And secondly, room is made in the hearts of that people which gives leave and right of possession, *Gen. 20. 15. 21, 25.* These *Indians* gave an invitation to the Lord *Willem* and the English, to their Countrey; which invitation was the ground of the said Lords planting on *Suranam* (one River in *Guaiana*) and this was confirmed by a price paid to the *Indians* upon his entrance.

3. The hopeful disposition of this people pleads for *Guaiana*, rather then *Florida*, where the *Indian* is more fierce, warlike, and intractable, as appeareth by the late murder of them that went with a Prince of theirs from hence (and it is ill planting a Christian Colony for the Gospel in war and blood) also they are more given to idlenesse, and lesse to civility besides the considerable neighbour force of the *Spanyard*. But *Guaiana* is altogether out of the road, possession and influence of the *Spanyard*, and the *Indians* are his mortall enemies, but very industrious, ingenious, and humane, and nor that I can hear doing wrong, if men break not with them in the law of nature (as some of our own and other Nations have done) and an undeniable proof of this we have in the quiet dwelling of one single family, *Jacob Enosh*, upon one branch of *Suranam* two years before the English Plantation, and the English Colony had lesse then 100. men at first, & they (as afterwards those that followed) planting at distance and alone, which is a better witness of the *Indians* peaceablenesse then of the prudence of the English. And the Natives have now an interest in the settlement and safety of the *English*, who are become their guard against their enemies,

Second Reason : For the proposed place and work is ; the passage to *Guaiana* is more short, certain, safe and comfortable then to the Northern Continent ; for if you have a snatch of fair wind to carry you out of your own doors (which is needfull for all our Plantions) ye may finish your voyage in five or six weeks, & soon after ye are past the *Canaries* (which ordinarily in few dayes) ye have a fair winde which useth not to admit of change or storme (as going to the *Northward* it doth) and the *Vird I-*lands being in your direct course 21 dayes from *Guaiana* give you offer of a refreshing if you need it, to make the voyage seem lesse tedious; and the coast is more safe than the *Northern*, for ships may ride there as in a harbour, there being no *Hurricanes* or *Quick-sands*, *Rocks*, or *shoals* to hazard your ship. Neither is there any season of the year that hinders your passage thither or thence, so that there may be double or treble returns in the year.

Third Reason, is the goodnesse of the Countrey, which may be known by what is, or may well be there; and we have no cause to doubt that *Guaiana* in one part or other will yield what the *West-Indies* generally do, and we are sure it hath some peculiar favours, if you take but one instance of the *Nutmeg* and *Mace*. This I may say, that the bounty of God to that Land is such, that lesse Estates are necessary for planting at first, or maintenance after, then either in *Europe* or *New-England* : So that Colonies in *Guaiana* will be a more generall and extended remedy for those that need and desire remove, than those last named : and they that are more able, need not leave behind their poor and lesse able brethren to what miserable shifts they can make. This is an inquiry which I feare will be visited in some that leave *England*, not minding therein the service of Christ, nor the good of their brethren, but every man his owne things onely, *Phil. 2. 20, 21. 1 Cor. 10. 24.* But the present Proposition reacheth to the poor as well as the rich, and yet so to the poor and labouring part that they shall not eat up (as else-where) those that are not skill'd, enabled, or accustomed to labour. This reason will be cleered in the particular advantages to be found in *Guaiana*.

1. *Dwellings* which are necessary for a cold Countrey, do cost very deare by purchase, building or rent, but in *Guaiana* are easily procured. A *Palisado'd* house is as much as is necessary at first, and this may be raised in lesse than a weeke by five or six hands. And if or whilest you will sit down among the present Planters in *Suranam*, you may purchase a Cabin and fallen and planted ground for the value of 30 or 40 pounds sterling, yea some for lesse, which Plantation you may sell again if you have occasion. Also when you have lease and reason for stronger and better building, there is good clay for Bricks, good Timber in great store and pleasant variety, and stone in some parts.

2. *Raiment*, which is so necessary and so deare in cold Countreies and Plantations

Plantations will easily rise here. Here the Cotton tree beares in nine months after planting, and this Tree yields matter for Dimmity, Fustian, and Calicoes to many Countries in the World, and in Guaiana may be so usefull, the very Indians being likely to store you with Yarne upon easie termes, besides what your owne hands of women and children will do. Also silke grasse grows abundantly, which will give a fine and strong Linnen. And there is little doubt of the growth of Flax and Hempe at least in the lower and moister parts of this Land. Therefore in this Countrey as numerous Families need little cloathing, so what they need will cost but little.

3. Food is to be had here in greater plenty and variety then in England, or any of it's Plantations elsewhere seiled, as you may judge by particulars. The Corne yields in three or foure moneths many hundred fold, and this it doth ordinarily twice, and may be thrice in the yeare. Some pease beare in three moneths, some in halfe the time, some much longer, and all the yeare long yee may in this Land gather green Pease. Potatoes planted from slips yeeld in three moneths, some in four, Yarnes in four, and of a small piece of root grow to incredible greatnesse, and this keeps longer in the house then Potatoes, and besides other use yields a good flower. Cassava yields in nine moneths and lesse. The Plantan in twelve or lesse. All these are generally usefull for bread and drinke. The Sugar-Cane for drinke and Strong-waters. For Flesh and Fish, here is great variety of Beasts, Birds, and Fish, which are strangers to Europe, besides some that are known at home. Cattle are had under twenty shillings a head at the Vird Islands, and greatly thrive, and good Butter is here already, and there is hope of obtaining Cattle in four or six dayes from a neighbour Colony, and that Countrey is likely to be soone well stockt; for some kinde of Sheep and Goats increase four times as much as in our parts, and the Cattle do beare sooner. Flesh and Fish take salt well. For further refreshing, there is store of pleasant and wholesome fruit; for beside the Plantan, the ground is apt for Figs, Oranges, Limmons, Limes, Pomcitrons, Pomegranates, Pine-apple, Guava, Grapes, Dates, Almonds, Coco, Cacao, and severall sorts of plumbs.

4. The labour here will not be so sore as in the Northern parts. The little ones of the family will be of good profitable use in picking Cotton and the like: And after your ground is fallen, Boyes or Girls under 12. years old may procure Necessaries for life (Food and Raiment) if you have but one that is stronger to beate your Corne. Instead of twice or thrice plowing and harrowing, manuring and laying fallow, (which Northern ground calls for) in these warmer parts there needs no more, but after burning the trash in small heaps to make holes with a sticke or Hoe, and drop in the Corne. The ripe Corne may be gathered by a Childe; and when you pull up the stalkes, you may put in their room some Pease, which may yeeld a Crop before you provide for your second Harvest of Corne.

The *Potatoes* which are spent in a week, may in an afternoon be supplied in the same ground by some uselesse small roots.

The *Cassava* when dig'd up, grows again if any small branch be stuck in the same ground.

The *Plantain* (which is so great a stay and refreshing in a Family) when it is once planted costs no further labour, and is ever bearing, and is easily propagated by the succours which abundantly spring from the root. For help in labour, you may more easily than in cold Countries procure and maintain heathen bond-servants, (Blacks or others) and in that point be after the manner of the Patriarchs. Also beside Bulls, Oxen, and Heifers for labour, ye may have Horses, Asinicoes, and it is possible Camels. And what Cattel you have there will be more easily kept then in the North, because the grasse ever springing, excuseth the toyle of making Winter-provision for them, as well as the heat doth the trouble of housing them.

Likewise the fencing of ground, which is so great and continuall a charge in our Northern Plantations, will be easier dispatched here; for after your first fencing with any rough, refuse Timber, the lime trees planted triangularly and plashed, will soon make an impassable and lasting fence, and also yeeld a usefull fruit.

Now these four particulars speak enough to answer your expectation, if it be as *Jacobs* was in going from his native Countrey, *Gen.* 28. 20, 21, 22. If he might have *bread to eat, and raiment to put on*, he counts it engagement and help enough to acknowledge God in conversation and worship. Yet that honest poor families may be trusted (on the credit of their Plantation) with transport and present support, and avoid those scandals of non-payment of debts, and exaction in dealing, which have followed the want of commodity in cold and barren Plantations. Behold a fifth particular of Gods liberality in the Countrey proposed.

5. There is a fair way of getting Estate. Ye may with an ordinary blessing increase as *Abraham*, *Lot*, *Isaac* and *Jacob* in *flocks and herds, men-servants and maid-servants*, *Gen.* 12. 16. 13. 5. 26. 14. 30. last. And if any content themselves with this sweet and innocent proceeding, they may fetch in any commodities which others toyl in, both in that Countrey, and the rich neighbour Isles three or four dayes off, which being freighted in land will never forbear rich commodity to plant provision, or keep Cattel. Yet what commodities the *Barbado's* and other Isles afford, are in the severall parts of this Continent to be had, and some to greater perfection and endurance. What was before said to be for Raiment, may be raised to some degree of commodity, for a little cloathing will answer the necessities of a family in this Countrey. Other commodities are, *Sugar*, *Indico*, *Ginger*, *Tobacco*. Not to omit what an ingenious people will prove and improve where there are so good materials, so much room, and in so good a land. Further there are *Nutmeg-trees*, *Cinnamon*, *Gloves*, severall sorts of *Pepper*, *Berries* and *Woods* for dye, *Scena*

and other drugs, Spleen stones, and Minerals. Honey and wax by that strange and continued increase of the diligent Bee, who is never confined by frost or snow, nor ever wants blossoms to feed on.

Yet before I conclude this third Reason, I would add this caution. Both Planter and Adventurer may hinder themselves of their mercies by hasty expectations and endeavours of riches, *Prov. 28. 20. Psalm. 37. 34. 62. 10, 11:* Neither may expect increase before rooting, and where the rooting and increase is so much sooner, and greater then in cold or narrower Plantations, here we may well wait for the precious fruit of the earth till we receive the early and later rain, *James 5. 7.* Neither would I have any so low in understanding as not to count upon difficulties from God, and opposition from Satan in so great a work as this; these things are necessary to refine the work and workmen, that no flesh may glory before the Lord: And yet let no man otherwise apt for, and called to this work be so low in courage as from hence to let fall his heart and hand, *Prov. 26. 13. 14, 15, 16. 15. 19.* Much lesse let your sloth or cowardize make you take up conceits against the Work or work-men, *Prov. 26. 16. Gen. 49. 14, 15.* Those objections of the Heat, Rains, wilde Beasts and the like will be easily answered by good reason and experience, and there will be scarce occasion once to mention them when the Countrey is opened, and people planted in Towns. As for the certain and satisfactory knowledge and condition of this Countrey, good people that are in severall parts here associated on a Christian account, and may have occasion to look after the work propounded, might do well to send their owne Messengers whom they can trust in some of the first ships, and by their return in letter or person ripen their thoughts to a godly wise resolution for themselves or such of theirs that are under a call.

The fourth Reason is the feasibility of planting Christian Colonies on *Guiana*. This appears in the Termes of the Netherlanders, who have three small Colonies upon that Coast, and in those of *Surinam*, an English Colony first settled by the Lord *Willoughby* of Parham. With either the poorest may be enabled as well as the able encouraged to plant upon *Guiana*. It is likely those English which are already removed into *Holland*, will incline either unto some free foundation of their own if they were able, or to the protection of the State where they now live. But if upon treaty they receive satisfaction (as it is possible they may) in some particulars, then they may haply be content to goe with and neer their own flesh and blood, I mean English people. For whereas the Dutch in the Termes I have seen transport Families, and for eight moneths maintain them, they will be repayed the same I know not at what rates, and beside that, have afterward a Tenth for acknowledgement. But the Lord *Willoughby* and other English patrons abroad and at home, are ready to transport poor Families and persons for some such consideration alone lesse or more as the charge of the transport, and the streng h of the transported shall prove. And this will appear in the Termes for *Surinam*,
and

and yet I must say that these are but present essays ; for if any thing more just and encouraging both to the Planter and Patron can be offered , it will be readily assented to. However, those that see reason for a speedy remove , may doubtlesse see as much for sitting down first (not at the Dutch Colonies, which are yet small & ill provided, but) at *Surinam*, there to gather stock of provision, servants and cattel, and so they may in a solid and comfortable way (when they have a competent number) proceed to some more satisfying settlement together. In order to which such meetings and debates will be necessary, which at home in such times of jealousy may not be convenient, no more then the moving from hence in a body will be. And that a good choice may be made, it seems that the Father of Spirits hath stirred up some generous men to search more exactly and judiciously this and other neighbour Rivers of *Guiana*, that they may know the best seat for a Colony, which they desire should be planted with men of the most exemplary lives, as most conducing to the good of the Natives as well as that of the Colony it selfe. And it were worthy of some noble and Christian spirits to interest themselves in the discovery, by imbarquing themselves or some trusty friends in the same. Now the blessed God lead his people through the deep as an horse in the wilderness that they may not stumble ; and by his spirit cause them to rest, so leading them to make himself a glorious name, Isa. 63.



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